

# MEXICO'S GOLD-SILVER DECREE IS AS FAIR AS OUR EMBARGO

(BY H. S. H.)

A GREAT deal of opposition has been aroused among some of the American and other foreign mine operators in Mexico to the recent decree of the Mexican government forbidding the exportation of gold or silver bars, entirely and allowing the exportation of gold or silver only under specified conditions. It is stipulated that for all gold or silver over a certain low percentage of value exported, an equivalent in bars or coins must be imported. If a mining company desires to export to the United States \$10,000 worth of gold ore, he must port with the government customs service a suitable bond that an equivalent of \$10,000 in coin or bullion bars will be brought back into the country within ten days. If the coin or bullion is not returned to Mexico, the bond will be forfeited.

So far as the decree is informative, it is to be supposed that the coin or bullion thus brought back would belong to the mining company and would be free of any tax or assessment of any kind. It would be manifestly unfair to compel a company to return gold or silver to the country and pay a tax in addition as a penalty for compliance with the law. It is provided in the decree that when these compensatory importations consist of bullion, the bars shall be minted in Mexico at no other cost than the usual minting fee.

Gen Carranza's intended course is plain. He realizes that to stabilize finances in Mexico, there must be gold and silver and still more gold and silver until metallic money is present in the country in such quantities as to validate, perhaps completely replace, the enormous issues of currency upon which the business and industries of the country of late years have been so precariously subsisting. With all going out and nothing coming in, Mexico would be left with worthless paper money just so long as it took the country to plunge into absolute ruin. President Carranza takes a very sound view of his country's finances when he decides that stability only can be found in gold and silver in sufficient sums at least to provide absolutely sure exchange for currency on demand. One wonders whether he was given that sound advice by the American financier, Mr. Bruce, former secretary of the Mexican government of recent months. The regulation requiring payment of customs duties and certain taxes in metallic money is a piece of the general plan.

It is to keep gold and silver in the country that the Mexican government has made this latest decree and, whatever the mining companies may think of it, the act is one of self preservation. We are doing the same thing, in a different way, here in the United States. At this very moment it is impossible, because of presidential proclamation, under the authority of the embargo act, to ship gold out of the United States except by government license and the licenses are not to be granted unless sound reasons for them exist, reasons which must satisfy the American government. It is not possible to ship gold to Mexico except under the license.

Mexico is merely coming along with an embargo of about the same kind, making it impossible to ship gold and silver out of Mexico except under the restrictions above mentioned. It would seem that if an embargo is fair for the United States, it is equally fair for Mexico.

The fact that an embargo on gold exports exists on this side of the line also brings up a phase of the situation which seems not to have been publicly developed. A mining company in Mexico, exporting gold ore to the United States and under bond to import an equivalent in bars or coin, will be unable to import the coin or bars of gold from the United States to Mexico except by American license. Doubtless, however, the American government without hesitation would agree to license such shipments inasmuch as they would not properly come under the contemplation of the embargo law, which is designed to prevent the draining of gold from the United States.

Some mine operators are understood to base their chief opposition on the statement that the importation by the companies of large values in coin or bullion would attract to the mining camps the attention of bandits from all over Mexico and that robbery and bloodshed would result. As a matter of fact that is exactly what would happen were the companies to try to keep the imported metal on hand. Naturally the thing to do would be to ship the coin direct from the border to banks in one or another of the strong, well garrisoned cities, which the bandits are now far too weak to attack. Also, it would be wise to ship bullion direct to the Mexican mint for coinage and then bank the money.

If this course were adopted and followed out, it would be only a short time until bandit bands were watching their chances to hold up trains and rob them of the gold or silver they would be carrying south from the border. It would then be up to the Mexican government not only to attack such bands with vigor but also to provide train guards in such strength as to make capture of the metal by bandits next to impossible. To make sure of that precaution, the mining companies might stipulate that the Mexican government become responsible for the safety of all gold or silver importations the minute they entered the Mexican customs house and remain responsible for them until delivered in banks. Gen. Carranza would most probably be glad to furnish that measure of protection to the financial interests of the mines, and especially so if he were to understand that upon compliance with so reasonable a request, hinged the decision whether the mines would keep operating or be forced to close down. At any rate, mining operators should not threaten the Mexican government with a suspension of operations until all efforts to reach a satisfactory agreement have failed.

J. Fuller Gloom, of Winfield, Kansas, is in one of the officers' training camps. He might be able to spare a little of it to spread dejection among the enemy.

Roosevelt's club for "undesirable citizens," "nature fakers," and "malefactors of great wealth" must be expanded now to include the "Huns within our gate."

An article on the first exchange of shots in the war ends: "Not a soul seemed to have been hit on either side," which is not surprising in view of the fact that no way has yet been found of shooting souls.

## THE DAYS OF REAL SPORT

BY BRIGGS



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### Little Interviews

## East Expects Three Years' War, Says Carothers County Clerk Says Records Open to All People

"THE east is taking the war more seriously than in the southwest," said George C. Carothers, who has just returned from an extended trip to Washington, D. C., and New York. "In New York City, everyone is preparing for a three years' war. While many don't believe the war will last this long, every one is taking every precaution to guard against surprise. New York City is preparing to decrease its daily expenses. That is, the housewives are combating with the high cost of living by buying more economically and in other ways, retrenching. Men are also retrenching in their daily expenses. The east has been ever filled with enthusiasm and everyone is confident the United States will win. There is no one who does not believe that the allies will crush Germany and her allies and forever prevent the possibility of an embargo of munitions and secure the freedom of the seas. It does look pretty cheap in both cases—Austin American."

"To all the nations at war, this war is the great issue," said Maurice Stern. "But the disappointment in the Russian downfall at the front is due to the prevalent misconception of Russia. The great masses feel for the thing alone now. The revolution has crowded out every other emotion from their hearts. They want to win deep and complete freedom. There was bound to be a clash between the war issue and the new democratic ideal. This is the war and the war issue will be successful remains to be seen."

"There are rumors in Butte, Montana, where 10,000 miners are on strike, that some form of temporary agreement has been reached. 'But what ever compromise is made, now or later on, ultimately the companies will be called upon to recognize the right of their men to organize, and whether the price is freedom or freedom of the miners themselves is a matter of indifference. It is for that right that the miners themselves are struggling. To annihilation about the I. W. W. and its German friendship is to obscure a very real social evil and to mislead the public. An attempt to put control of industry on a more democratic basis."

"Pens, ink and a desk are provided in the county clerk's office for the public to examine any record on file in the office," said county clerk W. D. Greer. "Abstract companies have no more privileges than individuals in fact, not as usual. No instrument is allowed to be taken out of the office by anybody. Even if a court demands papers, it must issue a 'deces tecum' subpoena, which would cause the clerk to take the instrument out, not sending it. As the name of Mr. Ferris, who made a statement Tuesday, is not found in city or telephone directory, I presume he is such a newcomer he doesn't know the procedure of the county clerk's office."

"After reading the opinions of different El Pasoans in the Herald regarding the purchase of a site near Fort Bliss for an army training camp and giving it to the government, I want to say that I endorse the movement, but believe that we are acting too late in many respects," said J. Editor El Paso Herald:

"Could the trolley cars handle the present traffic on these streets if the jitneys were forced to move to another part of the city?"

"Would the traveling public wait patiently for a trolley car to come along and when it did crowd in like sardines in a case?"

"That would be just what would happen if the jitneys were forced to move away from the present system where the trolley cars now travel."

"The trolley car company has promised to improve the present system by laying double tracks and putting on more cars. Now the question is, would the company keep its word if the jitneys were to be removed immediately?"

"Soldiers generally ride in the jitneys and service cars around pay day but about two weeks after are not so well situated financially. They would ride in trolleys to Fort Bliss, Camp Baker and camp at Fort Bliss if they could get transportation. Arriving at 1 o'clock at night you can hardly get on trolley cars going towards the fort. The cars on the Government hill line are supposed to run every 20 minutes but do they? Time them sometime just for the pleasure of proving this statement."

"CITY SANITARY WORK. Editor El Paso Herald: I have been reading about the city ordinance providing how bakeries, fruit stands and meat markets have to be cleaned. It all sounds very nice, but I often wonder why the same law does not reach the second ward. Every morning I see men with baskets of Mexican bread with milk and sugar on top of it, most of them unclean and many times the peddler meets some of his friends, and while he is engaged in conversation and enjoying his cigar, the flies are playing and dancing tango on the bread. A few days ago a man came to my

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